#### Physical Activity and Primary Cancer Prevention in Low Resource Settings: What works?

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## Outline

- Physical Activity and Cancer Risk
- Physical Activity and Cancer Risk Potential Pathways
- Physical Activity Recommendations for Cancer Prevention
- Effective Physical Activity Approaches and Interventions
- Key Challenges

## NCD Funding



Gostin LO. Healthy living needs global governance. Nature, 2014; 511:147-149.

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#### Physical Activity and Cancer Risk

- Regular moderate and vigorous physical activity has been linked to decreased cancer risk<sup>1,2</sup>.
- Average risk reduction of about 20 to 30%<sup>2</sup>.
- The evidence for this casual link is stronger for certain types of cancer<sup>1,2</sup>.

| Cancer Site | Risk Reduction | Level of Evidence               |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Colon       | 20-25%         | Convincing <sup>1,2</sup>       |
| Breast      | 20-30%         | Convincing <sup>1</sup>         |
| Endometrium | 20-30%         | Probable <sup>1,2</sup>         |
| Prostate    | 10-20%         | Possible <sup>1</sup>           |
| Lung        | 20-40%         | Limited Suggestive <sup>2</sup> |
| Ovary       | 10-20%         | Possible <sup>1</sup>           |
| Pancreatic  | 40-50%         | Limited Suggestive <sup>2</sup> |
| Gastric     | 30%            | Possible <sup>1</sup>           |

Table adapted from: Kruk J, Czerniak U. Physical Activity and its Relation to Cancer Risk: Updating the Evidence. Asian Pac J Cancer Prev, 2013 14 (7), 3993-4003

## Physical Activity and Cancer Risk: Potential Pathways

- Physical activity is thought to descrease cancer risk by<sup>2</sup>:
  - Decreasing adiposity,
  - Decreasing certain types of hormones,
  - Changing biomarkers and insulin resitance,
  - Improving immune function,
  - Reducing inflammation.

#### Physical Activity and Cancer Risk: Potential Pathways



Figure from: Steindorf K, Leitzmann MF, Friedenreich CM. Physical Activity and Primary Cancer Prevention. In C.M. Ulrich et al. (eds.), *Exercise, Energy Balance, and Cancer*, DOI 10.1007/978-1-4614-4493-0\_6, © Springer Science+Business Media New York 2013

#### Physical Activity and Cancer Risk: Research Gaps

- Need to determine type, dose, and timing of physical activity interventions associated with cancer risk reduction<sup>1,2</sup>.
- Need better methods for measuring sedentary behavior and further investigation of the actual impact of inactivity on different types of cancer<sup>1,2</sup>.
- Study designs combining exercise and diet for cancer prevention across multiple types of cancers<sup>1,2</sup>.
- Association between physical activity and cancer risk for most cancer sites remains unknown<sup>1,2</sup>.

#### Physical Activity Recommendations for Cancer Prevention

- American Cancer Society<sup>3</sup>:
  - Adults 150 mintues of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week,
  - Children and Adolescents 1 hour of moderate or vigorous physical activity per day,
  - Limit sedentary behavior.
- American Institute for Cancer Research<sup>4</sup>:
  - Be physically active for at least 30 minutes every day,
  - For maximum health benefits 60 mintues or more of moderate or 30 minutes or more of vigorous physical activity per day,
  - Limit sedentary behavior

U.S. Community Preventive Services Task Force The Community Guide<sup>5</sup>

- The Community Guide includes systematic reviews focused on increasing physical activity behavior in the following areas:
  - Behavioral and social approaches
  - Campaings and informational approaches
  - Environmental and policy approaches

## The Community Guide <sup>5</sup> : Behavioral and Social Approaches

- Recommends individually-adapted health behavior change programs:
  - goal-setting and self-monitoring,
  - building social support,
  - behavioral reinforcement,
  - problem solving, and
  - relapse prevention into sedentary behavior.
- Recommends social support interventions in commuity settings:
  - Creating buddy systems, walking groups, social support contract to increase accountability.
- Recommends enhanced school-based physical education
  - Instructional strategies to increase physical activity,
  - Lesson plans that incorporate fitness and circuit training activities

## The Community Guide <sup>5</sup> : Campaings and Informational Approaches

- Recommends community-wide campaings:
  - Involve multiple community sectors,
  - Include highly visible, broad-based, multicomponent strategies,
  - May also address other disease risk factors such as diet and smoking cessation.

## The Community Guide <sup>5</sup> : Environmental and Policy Approaches

- Recommends community-scale urban design:
  - Walkability issues (e.g. Proximity to stores, jobs; continuity and connectivity of sidewalks; aesthetic and safety);
  - Zoning regulations, building codes to promote designs supportive of active lifestyles.
- Recommends creating or enhancing access to places for physical activity, combined with informational outreach:
  - Creating walking trails, building exercise facilities, providing access to existing nearby facilities.
- Recommends street-scale urban design land-use policies:
  - Policy instruments such as building codes, roadway design, and environmental changes;
  - Design components including improved street lighting, increased street crossing safety, traffic calming approaches (speed humps, traffic circles), street landscaping.

#### Cancer Control Planet<sup>6</sup>: Effective Physical Activity Interventions

- Program Characteristics:
  - Multiple supervised exercise sessions (e.g. weekly, biweekly, monthly) of 60 to 90 minutes;
  - Group meeting sessions of 60 minutes;
  - Telephone support calls;
  - Interactive technologies mobile phone, web-stides;
  - Intervention materials (videos, workbook, flyers, pamphlets);
  - Community campaigns: paid newspaper, TV and radio advertising, weekly press conferences, worksite programs, website exposure, and other public health education programs implemented by physicians, health professionals, and ministers.



## Key Challenge

Striking a balance between...

- What works (is effective);
- What is feasible given the available resources;
- What are the needs of the local community and target audience.



# Integrated Research-Practice Partnership (IRPP)



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## **IRPP** Examples



## Lessons Learned

- Community participation key;
- Stakeholders;
- Access, Access, Access;
- Resources;
- Political will;
- Whose priority?
- Flexibility;
- Sustainability and Funding!



## Summary

- Physical activity and inactivity linked to decreased cancer risk;
- Several strategies and approaches have shown effectiveness;
- Challenge to balance effective approaches, existing resources, community needs;
- More of the same not an option.



#### **Questions? Comments?**

# Thank You!

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